Surveys to assess delivery efficiency of mails on a regular basis all over the country.

(b) No, Sir. As per the results of the Metro Mail Survey conducted in September, 2001, the delivery efficiency of mail in Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad and Mumbai is as follows:—

Chennai	98.9%
Delhi	98.5%
Hyderabad	96.1%
Mumbai	99.1%

(c) There are two Letter Sorting Machines (LSMs) each in the Automatic Mail Processing Centres (AMPCs) at Mumbai and Chennai respectively. Out of the two machines, one is kept as standby so that the entire volume of mail is not delayed in the event of breakdown.

The full capacity utilisation of Automatic Mail Processing Centres (AMPCs) depends on availability of machinable mails which conform to standards of size, length, breadth, thickness, non-use of stapler pin etc. Availability of machinable mail thus depends largely on the co-operation of the public. Non-availability of sufficient machinable mails is the main reason for under utilisation of the AMPCs. The Department is making all possible efforts to popularise the concept of machinable mails and educate the public in suitably preparing their mails.

Delay in execution of projects by Civil Wing

1844. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Posts has a separate civil wing for planning and execution of its civil works;

(b) if so, whether on an average each postal circle executes less than one project per year with an average cost of just Rs. 21.00 lakhs per project;

(c) whether out of 27 projects completed during 1993—98 only 9 were completed on scheduled and rest were delayed by 10 to 51 months; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons for the delay in execution of the 18 projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) It is incorrect that each Postal Circle executes less than one project per year with an average cost of just Rs. 21 Lakhs per project. These figures are just based on the survey carried out by Audit Authorities for 7 Posts Circles namely Bihar, Delhi, Haryana, M.P., Punjab, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu. Department has 22 Postal Circles (19 postal Circles during the time of survey) and each postal circle has enough projects for execution. In addition, there are a very large number of ongoing projects. Also Civil Wing executes maintenance work of thousands of departmental buildings all over the country. The projects are sometimes delayed due to the following reasons:—

(i) Natural calamities like flash floods, earthquake, etc.

(ii) Local disturbances like insurgency in some States.

(iii) Slow work by contractor for which penalty is recovered from contractor's bill.

(iv) Delay on account of local by laws.

(v) Non-cooperation of contractors.

Licences for long distance telephone services

1845. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the private companies granted licences by the Department of Telecommunications to run National long distance telephone services in the country;

(b) whether some applications are still pending;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to clear these applications?